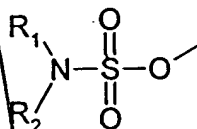


CLAIMS

1. A method of inhibiting steroid sulphatase activity in a subject in need of same, the method comprising administering to said subject a steroid sulphatase inhibiting amount of a ring system compound;

wherein the ring system compound comprises a ring to which is attached a sulphamate group of the formula



wherein each of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is independently selected from H, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and aryl, or together represent alkylene optionally containing one or more hetero atoms or groups in the alkylene chain; and

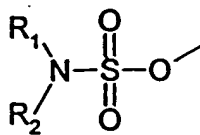
wherein said compound is an inhibitor of an enzyme having steroid sulphatase activity (E.C.3.1.6.2); and

wherein if the sulphamate group of said compound is replaced with a sulphate group to form a sulphate compound and incubated with a steroid sulphatase enzyme (E.C.3.1.6.2) at a pH 7.4 and 37°C it would provide a K<sub>m</sub> value of less than 50 μM.

2. A ring system compound;

wherein the ring system compound comprises a ring to which is attached a sulphamate group of the formula

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wherein each of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from H, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and aryl, or together represent alkylene optionally containing one or more  
5 hetero atoms or groups in the alkylene chain;

wherein  $R_1$  or  $R_2$  is H;

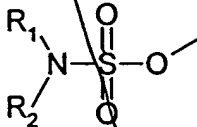
wherein said compound is an inhibitor of an enzyme having steroid sulphatase  
10 activity (E.C.3.1.6.2); and

wherein if the sulphamate group of said compound is replaced with a sulphate group to form a sulphate compound it would be a substrate for a steroid sulphatase enzyme  
15 (E.C.3.1.6.2).

3. A ring system compound;

wherein the ring system compound comprises a ring to which is attached a  
sulphamate group of the formula

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wherein each of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from H, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and aryl, or together represent alkylene optionally containing one or more  
25 hetero atoms or groups in the alkylene chain;

wherein  $R_1$  or  $R_2$  is H;

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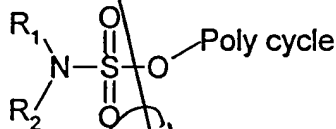
wherein said compound is an inhibitor of an enzyme having steroid sulphatase activity (E.C.3.1.6.2); and

5 wherein if the sulphamate group of said compound is replaced with a sulphate group to form a sulphate compound and incubated with a steroid sulphatase enzyme (E.C.3.1.6.2) at a pH 7.4 and 37°C it would provide a  $K_m$  value of less than 50  $\mu$ M.

4. A ring system compound;

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wherein the ring system compound has the formula



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wherein each of R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is independently selected from H, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and aryl, or together represent alkylene optionally containing one or more hetero atoms or groups in the alkylene chain;

wherein R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub> is H;

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wherein the group Poly cycle is a polycyclic ring structure

wherein said compound is an inhibitor of an enzyme having steroid sulphatase activity (E.C.3.1.6.2); and

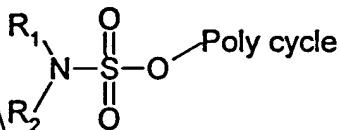
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wherein if the sulphamate group of said compound is replaced with a sulphate group to form a sulphate compound it would be a substrate for a steroid sulphatase enzyme (E.C.3.1.6.2).

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5. A ring system compound;

wherein the ring system compound has the formula



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wherein each of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from H, alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl and aryl, or together represent alkylene optionally containing one or more hetero atoms or groups in the alkylene chain;

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wherein  $R_1$  or  $R_2$  is H;

wherein the group Poly cycle is a steroidal ring structure

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wherein said compound is an inhibitor of an enzyme having steroid sulphatase activity (E.C.3.1.6.2); and

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wherein if the sulphamate group of said compound is replaced with a sulphate group to form a sulphate compound it would be a substrate for a steroid sulphatase enzyme (E.C.3.1.6.2).

add a<sup>2</sup> >

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